

ment of enamel (West. Aust. Mus. 69.4.10) from a very large tooth probably represents the extinct Marsupial Lion (*Thylacoleo* sp.), and a practically complete skull and mandible (West. Aust. Mus. 69.4.12) represent the Tasmanian Devil (*Sarcophilus harrisi*). The *Sarcophilus* mandible was firmly cemented to the floor of the cave, and the skull lay over it in the same position as in life, nearly buried in unconsolidated cave earth; presumably the carcass of the animal concerned came to rest in this position, and the flesh rotted away, leaving the skull and mandibular bones undisturbed. However, of the rest of the skeleton, only portion of a femur was recovered. A worn premolar tooth (West. Aust. Mus. 69.4.13) lying loose on the cave floor represents the extinct kangaroo-like *Sthenurus browni*. Other specimens lying loose on the cave floor nearby represent existing species such as the Short-nosed Bandicoot (*Isodon obesulus*—West. Aust. Mus. 69.4.32).

Labyrinth Cave is only the third south-western site reported to carry such a mixture of existing and locally or completely extinct marsupial species, the other two sites being Mammoth Cave (Woodward, 1910) and Strong's Cave. Preliminary notice of the Strong's Cave discoveries was published in this journal (Cook, 1963) and it is fitting that preliminary notice of the Labyrinth Cave finds also should be published here. Although more than half a century has elapsed since the fossil discoveries in Mammoth Cave, and six years since those in Strong's Cave, new information is still being won from the material collected, and from the sites themselves, and only interim reports have been published (e.g. Merrilees, 1968b). Many years may elapse before a full report can be issued on the new finds in Labyrinth Cave, but in the meantime it is encouraging to know that the age of discovery is not yet over.

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REMAINS OF *SARCOPHILUS* THE "TASMANIAN" DEVIL (MARSUPIALIA, DASYURIDAE) FROM COASTAL DUNES SOUTH OF SCOTT RIVER, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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A large egg (the "Scott River fossil egg") was found in coastal dunes south of Scott River many years ago, and subsequently lodged in the Western Australian Museum (Anon., 1962; Edwards, 1962; Hyslop, 1967). I took part in investigations on the site of this find between 1962 and 1964, and in 1967 revisited the area and collected surface material which apparently had weathered out during the preceding three years.

The site (34° 20'S, 115° 25'E) is in coastal dunes between the Scott River and the Southern Ocean, on a property held by Mr G. Dunnett. An area of about 20 acres is involved, mainly mobile sand dunes, but stabilized by marram grass along the beach and bounded inland by dense thickets of coastal wattle and other plants. Fossil soils and perhaps other kinds of deposit are exposed in places as dark layers or as lithified marl surfaces.

Tooth-bearing and other readily diagnosed specimens collected by me in 1967 and presented to the Western Australian Museum included:—

Sarcophilus (Western Australian Museum specimen 68.3.245)—right dentary of a young animal, with the first premolar, first and second molars and partly-erupted fourth molar, together with an isolated upper canine thought to be from the same animal as the dentary.

Setonix (68.3.181-220 and 68.3.246-248)—abundant. Mainly dentaries, but some nearly complete crania.

Bettongia penicillata (68.3.221)—one dentary.

Macropus (probably *M. fuliginosus*) 68.3.222—the left maxillary of a young animal.

Pseudocheirus (68.3.223-226)—dentaries.

Isodon (68.3.227-233)—dentaries.

Dasyurus (68.3.234-235)—skull and dentary.

Murid, fox and rabbit remains were also collected, and bird remains included kookaburra and frogmouth, emu egg shell, and shell of some small bird. An Aboriginal implement (microlith) and some pieces of an iron nail were also present. Previous collections from the area had included snake, lizard, bird, bovid and human remains in addition to the foregoing. Marine material was abundant, too, and included cetacean, fish, molluse, crustacean and echinoderm remains.

The *Sarcophilus* remains are of interest in representing the first record from the site of a mammal now extinct on the mainland of Australia, although persisting in Tasmania. Apart from 68.3.245 and remains from the Balladonia district, all other Western Australian fossil or sub-fossil specimens of *Sarcophilus* have been found in caves. Specimen 68.3.245 appears to differ from other specimens from the same site in being slightly yellowish in colour, and in showing a white encrustation in some of the tooth sockets.

Thus the deposit shows an interesting mixture of marine and terrestrial and ancient and modern animal remains, and might repay more intensive study.

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